(c) under which railway service rules, the retirement orders were issued; and

(d) what retirement benefits are being given to the vendors and bearers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Commission bearers/vendors were engaged by the Zonal Railways at divisional level locally to attend work pertaining to Departmental catering units and they were paid commission only. They were not railway employees. However, in terms of Hon'ble supreme Court's directions in 1986 in a Writ Petition'filed by Shri Tl. Madhavan and others, these commission bearers/vendors are to be absorbed in Railways in group "D" as and when vacancies arise. Accordingly, their absorption are being made by the Railways as per the terms and condition for such absorption in Group "D" posts. However, Board after examining the slow progress in their absorption, allowed certain relaxation in regard to age, educational qualification etc. as on 1.4.2005 and also prescribed the disengagement age of commission bearers/vendors who completed 60 years of age *vide* Board's letter dated: 1.12.2005. Those commission bearers/vendors who are absorbed in Railways are eligible for all such retirement benefits at par with railway employees as per extant guidelines.

Bullet train

382. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce bullet trains between Chennai-Madurai and Chennai-Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of Bullet Trains require separate dedicated infrastructure and massive investments with relatively low returns and is not a priority at present.